

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 INSE-00 SY-03 /014 W

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P 201704Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8824

INFO AMCONSUL ZURICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERN 1103

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, SZ

SUBJ: TOUR GROUP VISAS FOR AIR TRAVELLERS

REF: STATE 047785

1. ON BASIS OF PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS, EMBASSY HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE GROUP VISA CONCEPT OUTLINED IN REFTTEL IS FEASIBLE FOR NIV FUNCTION IN SWITZERLAND.

2. ACCORDING TO SWISS FEDERAL CIVIL AIR OFFICIALS, 1973 STATISTICS (NOT YET PUBLISHED) INDICATE THAT APPROX. 60,000 TRAVELLERS FROM SWITZERLAND ARRIVED IN U.S. ON CHARTER FLIGHTS IN 1973. DISCUSSIONS HAVE SATIFIED EMBASSY THAT THE MAJORITY OF THESE TRAVELLERS COULD HAVE BEEN DOCUMENTED UNDER GROUP VISA PROCEDURE, I.E., ENTERED AND DEPARTED THE U.S. IN GROUPS.

3. WE HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED GROUP VISA CONCEPT WITH AIRLINE OFFICIAL WHO WAS LUKE WARM TO PLAN PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF INTERNAL PROBLEMS ENVISIONED I.E. INDIVIDUAL LAST MINUTE CANCELLATIONS OR ADDITIONS, STRAGGLERS IN U.S. ETC. HOWEVER, HE AGREED IN PRINCIPAL THAT PROCEDURES COULD BE WORKED OUT.

4. CONOFFS HERE DO HAVE SOME BASIC RESERVATIONS REGARDING WHETHER SUGGESTED PROCEDURES WILL MATERIALLY AFFECT ULTIMATE WORKLOAD. HOWEVER, EMBASSY REQUESTS
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THAT SWITZERLAND BE INCLUDED IN GROUP VISA CONCEPT AS

IT DEVELOPS. CONGEN ZURICH HAS CONCURRED IN THIS REQUEST.
DAVIS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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